



# News Release

## Superior Court of California, County of Kern

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### **SUPERIOR COURT APPOINTS TWO NEW COURT COMMISSIONERS**

The Kern County Superior Court is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Court Commissioners. Court Commissioners are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Judges of the Superior Court. They act as temporary judges presiding over cases, exercising the same powers and duties as a Judge of the Superior Court.

Mr. Roger H. Ponce Jr. has been appointed to preside over the new Pretrial Release and Arraignment calendar. An attorney since 2010, Mr. Ponce has been a sole practitioner with his own law office, taking appointments from the Kern County Indigent Defense Panel to represent indigent criminal defendants in our courts. He has vast criminal law experience, not only in his own law practice, but as a Federal Deputy Public Defender and San Bernardino Deputy Public Defender. His experience, work ethic and demeanor will serve him well in his new position as Superior Court Commissioner.

Mr. Donald B. Griffith has been appointed to preside over a new Domestic Violence and Family Law calendar. An attorney since 1992, Mr. Griffith has been a sole practitioner since 1995. Mr. Griffith has been a Certified Family Law Specialist since 2014 and has volunteered many hours as a Temporary Judge in Riverside County. Mr. Griffith's family law expertise and prior temporary judge experience will serve our Family Law litigants well.

Both Commissioners will begin their duties in January of 2022.

**For questions concerning this news release: [PublicAffairs@Kern.Courts.CA.Gov](mailto:PublicAffairs@Kern.Courts.CA.Gov)**

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